

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A 6-bit output code word is generated in response to every 4-bit input code word by referring to a set of encoding tables. The encoding tables contain output code words assigned to input code words, and contain encoding-table designation information accompanying each output code word. The encoding-table designation information designates an encoding table among the encoding tables which is used next to generate an output code word immediately following the output code word accompanied with the encoding-table designation information. The generated output code words are sequentially connected into a sequence which follows run length limiting rules. The run length limiting rules are changed between RLL(1, 7) and RLL(1, 8) in response to auxiliary information to superimpose the auxiliary information on the sequence of the generated output code words.